

so valuable a tree. But we have no reason to believe that they attempted to introduce the White Spruce. There is, as we have seen, good reason to believe that Cartier took the *Thuja occidentalis* to Europe, and it is on record that his royal patron, a few years afterward, distributed the tree as the *Arbor Vitæ*, and, notwithstanding the seemingly positive evidence that the tree was the White Spruce, Mr. Meehan thought the *Thuja* had some ground for disputing the claim. At any rate, whatever may have been the real tree, he could not help suspecting that the name *Arbor Vitæ* had some relation to this touching episode in the history of the Cartier expedition.

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MAY 9.

The President, Dr. Leidy, in the chair.

Twenty-seven persons present.

A paper, entitled "The Muscles of the Limbs of the Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)" by Harrison Allen, M. D., was presented for publication.

The death of Chas. M. Wheatley, a member, was announced.

The death of Mr. Wm. S. Vaux having been announced, Dr. Ruschenberger read the following resumé of his services as an officer and member, and offered the appended resolutions, which were adopted:—

I sincerely regret to announce that Mr. William S. Vaux, the senior Vice-President of the Academy, died at his residence in the city, May 5, 1882, very near the close of the seventy-first year of his age. He was born May 19, 1811.

Mr. Vaux was elected a member of the Academy, March, 1834, and during more than forty-eight years served the Society effectually and generously. He was an Auditor thirty years, from December, 1856; a Curator forty-three years and four months, from December, 1838; a member of the Publication Committee, of which he was treasurer more than forty-one years, from December, 1840, and a Vice-President twenty years and four months, from December, 1860, excepting the year 1875.

His annual re-election to these important offices during all this time, implies that he discharged all his official duties satisfactorily to the Society.

During the construction of the hall, at the corner of Broad and

Sansom Streets, in which the Society held its first meeting, February 18, 1840, he was an active member of the Building Committee. He served in the same capacity when the building was extended in 1847, and in December, 1851, when it was determined to raise and improve the previously enlarged hall, a work which was completed December, 1855, he was elected a member of the Building Committee, and discharged all his duties efficiently.

In December, 1865, he was appointed a member of the Committee of Forty to solicit subscriptions for the erection of the hall now occupied by the Society, and in January, 1867, he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Building Fund, and by it Treasurer of the Fund, and a member of the Building Committee, positions which he held when he died.

In all these building enterprises he was earnestly interested, gave liberally to all of them himself, and by his invitation and example influenced others to give. To the present building fund he contributed seven thousand dollars, the largest sum given by any individual.

Besides his gifts to the Building and other Funds, he contributed liberally to the museum, especially to the departments of mineralogy and ethnology, in which he was particularly interested, and also to the library.

This brief outline of his long and useful services and bounty to the Society is sufficient to indicate that the Academy has sustained a heavy loss by the death of Mr. Vaux. As a token of the Society's estimation of his worth, I submit the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the members of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, deeply regret the death of the senior Vice-President, William S. Vaux, who was an experienced officer, a prudent adviser, and a steadfast and beneficent friend of the Society.

That in his death students of the natural sciences have lost a benevolent patron who contributed liberally to the means and facilities of study in possession of the institution.

That, as a message of condolence, a copy of these resolutions, attested by the President and Recording Secretary, be transmitted to his family.